

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Application of:

RYAN, et al.

Serial No.: 09/725,182

Filed: 29 November 2000

For: Novel and Practical Serological assay for the
Clinical Diagnosis of Leishmaniasis

Art Unit: 1645

Examiner: Baskar, P.

Atty. Docket: P66748US1 (98-41X)

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AMENDMENT UNDER 35 C.F.R. 1.116

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Official Action mailed 18 December 2001, the response to which is set to expire on 18 June 2002. The pending claims, claims 1, 3-8, 11-20, 27, 29, and 41-53, were rejected. Reconsideration and entry of the following amendment are respectfully requested.

AMENDMENT

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Twice amended) An immunoassay for detecting exposure to *Leishmania* parasites in a subject comprising the steps of:

contacting a sample from the subject suspected of having leishmaniasis with a soluble antigen prepared by culturing the *Leishmania* parasites in a protein-free medium comprising an oncotic agent; and

detecting the presence or measuring the amount of an antibody in the sample bound to the soluble antigen.

Please cancel claims 9-10, 21-26, 28, and 30-40, without prejudice or disclaimer, as being directed to a non-elected invention.